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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
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SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0394

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD JUNE 26-JULY 2

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE EAST CONTINUED THIS WEEK ITS VIGOROUS EFFORTS ON ALL FRONTS TO PLAY UP THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS JUNE 8 PROPOSALS AS A MAJOR MOVE TO MEET THE WESTERN POSITION IN THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY
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2. BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN REPS AT THE JUNE 27 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS COMMENTED ON THE OPERATION OF COLLECTIVE MANPOWER CEILINGS UNDER THE JUNE 8 EASTERN PROPOSALS. EASTERN REPS CLAIMED TO HAVE TAKEN A MAJOR COMPROMISE STEP OF GREAT MILITARY AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO SATISFY WESTERN REQUIREMENTS AS REGARDS COLLECTIVITY. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ACKNOWLEDGED

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POINTS PREVIOUSLY MADE BY WESTERN REPS THAT THE NEWLY PROPOSED EASTERN APPROACH WOULD ENABLE SOVIET FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA TO BE READILY RETURNED TO THEIR PRE-REDUCTION LEVEL AND WOULD, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, PREVENT THE WEST FROM MAINTAINING ITS OWN OVERALL POST-REDUCTION FORCE LEVEL. HOWEVER, EASTERN REPS SAID THAT BOTH EVENTUALITIES WERE CLEARLY HYPOTHETICAL AND SUGGESTED, AS REGARDS THE LATTER, THAT A SPECIAL EAST-WEST AGREEMENT COULD COPE WITH SUCH A SITUATION SHOULD IT, IN FACT, ARISE. WESTERN REPS REITERATED THAT, WHILE THEY WELCOMED EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT MANPOWER CEILINGS SHOULD BE COLLECTIVE IN NATURE, IT STILL APPEARED THAT THE METHOD SELECTED BY THE EAST TO APPLY THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLECTIVITY WOULD CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. WESTERN REPS ALSO REITERATED THAT WESTERN PROPOSALS OFFERED A SUPERIOR WAY OF DEALING WITH THE ISSUE.

3. DURING THE BALANCE OF THE SESSION, WESTERN REPS ASKED FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EASTERN JUNE 8 PROPOSALS AND PRESENTED A PAPER ANSWERING EARLIER EASTERN QUESTIONS ON WESTERN MILITARY MANPOWER DATA AND ASKING ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON EASTERN DATA. EASTERN REPS RESPONDED TO SOME OF THE LATEST WESTERN QUESTIONS AS WELL AS PREVIOUS ONES ABOUT THEIR NEW PROPOSALS AND TO PREVIOUS WESTERN QUESTIONS ON EASTERN DATA. THE LATTER EASTERN ANSWERS WERE NOT FULLY RESPONSIVE AND INCLUDED FREQUENT CITATION OF EARLIER EASTERN REPLIES TO WESTERN DATA QUESTIONS.

4. POLISH REP STRULAK DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT MADE AT THE
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JUNE 29 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION ELABORATED ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE EAST'S JUNE 8 PROPOSALS TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE KEY WESTERN REQUIREMENTS OF PARITY AND COLLECTIVITY. POLISH REP REPEATED THE EAST'S ASSERTION THAT EASTERN AND WESTERN MILITARY MANPOWER LEVELS IN THE REDUCTION AREA WERE ALREADY APPROXIMATELY EQUAL, TERMED ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS UNACCEPTABLE AND REJECTED THE STANDARD WESTERN APPROACH TO COLLECTIVITY.

5. IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT AT THE REGULAR POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH EASTERN PARTICIPANTS CONTINUED TO PREFER BROADER FORCE REDUCTIONS, THEY HAD HEEDED WESTERN ARGUMENTS AND TAKEN AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS THE WESTERN POSITION IN THE INTEREST OF BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF MILITARY DETENTE IN ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST SENSITIVE AREAS. WHEN ASKED BY A WESTERN CORRESPONDENT WHETHER THIS STEP MEANT THAT EASTERN DATA SUBMITTED SO FAR ON WARSAW PACT FORCES WAS QUOTE NOW NEGOTIABLE UNQUOTE, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN CITED EASTERN AND WESTERN MANPOWER DATA IN SUPPORT OF THE EASTERN POSITION THAT THERE ALREADY IS AN APPROXIMATE PARITY IN THE FORCE RELATIONSHIP IN THE REDUCTION AREA. UNDER SUBSEQUENT, CLOSE QUESTIONING FROM WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS AS REGARDS THE NEW EASTERN APPROACH TO COLLECTIVITY, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN HAD

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DIFFICULTY IN MAKING A COHERENT CASE THAT THE EAST HAD, IN FACT,
MADE A SUBSTANTIAL MOVE AWAY FROM NATIONAL CEILINGS.DEAN

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